

New years day 2012

HTS

Prov 3:5-6 choose to trust God.

Cup illustration.

I need a volunteer. All you will have to do, is to tell me which cup the chocolate is under. If you manage to guess correctly, you will get to keep the chocolate, (have a piece of paper with the option of a bar of chocolate inside one of the other cups.)

Have 3 cups and under one cup you place the chocolate. One cup is empty, and in the third, sellotape some paper money, or a piece of paper, it can be helpful to have different mugs so you remember which mug has the paper under it.

Mix the cups up and make it obvious which mug the chocolate is under. Then ask them if they trust you enough to chose the cup that you are pointing to, the one with the paper in it.

Chances are they will take the cup with the chocolate under it. Play to the congregation and ask them if they agree or if they would trust you.

If they do, great, they have shown trust. If not, give them the chocolate, then tell them that if they had trusted you this would have been there reward. Turn over the cup with the piece of paper on it offering them a bar of chocolate.

They wanted what they could see, but we can't see the future, only God can, and that is why he asks us to trust him.

Prov 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Application.

We can all sit here this morning and say that we trust God for the coming year, but it is hard to do when you don't know what is going to happen this year. It is hard to trust when you can't see through a cup, let alone when you can't see for 365 days.

Today, this year, you have a choice,

Will you choose to trust God this year?

Brake and sing a song.

Balls illustration.

I need another volunteer.

I want you to hold onto all of these balls. Give them the balls and make them hold them.

Each of these balls represents something in your life that you like, that you want value, that you want to hold on to.

Mobile phone, make up, mortgage, house, health, car, job, family, fashion, friends, place in sports team, pension, health insurance, winter fuel allowance.

Whatever it is, it will be different for each of us, these balls represent these things. Ask volunteer if they are getting tired of holding them. Should say yes. Say it is hard to hold onto all of these things, it takes energy

Now, I have here a bar of chocolate. This bar of chocolate represents trusting God. Trusting God is good. Chocolate is good.....dodgy connection. Don't push it to far! You can hold on to all of these balls, things, etc, or you can trust God to look after your future, and everything that you are worried about, and trying to carry or hold onto.

Now if I throw you this bar of chocolate, are you going to be able to catch it without dropping any of the balls? No, so you have a choice to make.

Choice is to keep hold of all the balls and what they stand for, and hold them in your own strength, or to drop them, and catch the chocolate and trust God. Which do you want to do?

Throw chocolate and see what happens. Let them keep the chocolate if they catch it.
It's a choice.

Will you choose to trust God this year?

What is it that you are holding onto?

Mobile phone, make up, mortgage, house, health, car, job, family, fashion, friends, place in sports team, pension, health insurance, winter fuel allowance.

What is robbing you of your peace, your energy. What are you not trusting God with. Remember, **you weren't able to see through the cup**, so how can you know what is going to happen tomorrow, let alone a few months from now.

Prov 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Conclusion.

The Bible tells you t trust God. It also tells you to not try to figure it out, but to trust God, and let him make your paths straight.

So what is it that you are not trusting God with. What are you holding on to. What do you think you need more than God.

Why not today make a choice.

Will you choose to trust God this year?